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keep the PROMISE

MASSACHUSETTS EDUCATION EXCELLENCE PARTNERSHIP

PARTNERS

Associated Industries of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Education

Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce

Massachusetts Association of School Committees

Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents

Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education

Massachusetts Business Roundtable

Massachusetts Department of Education

Massachusetts Federation of Teachers

Massachusetts High Tech Council

MASS Insight

Massachusetts Teachers Association

In collaboration with

Challenge To Leadership

Keep the Promise
A Massachusetts Education Excellence Partnership

Introduction

When Governor William Weld signed the Education Reform Act into law in June of 1993, Massachusetts took the first step on the long road toward fundamental change in our public schools. At the heart of the Education Reform Act is a promise of better schools and a better education for our children. Over a seven year period, the Commonwealth will invest an additional $1.3 billion into our public schools in an effort to equalize per pupil spending across the state. In return for this investment, schools will adopt higher academic standards and accept responsibility for student performance.

Already, in the third year of this seven-year effort, important questions are being asked by educators, business leaders and parents throughout the Commonwealth. Is education reform working? Are schools in Massachusetts on the right path towards providing our children with a world-class education? When will we see tangible results of our investment in the future of our children?

Earlier this fall, the Executive Office of Education convened a group of ten leading educational and business organizations from around the Commonwealth to map out a strategy to ensure that the most critical stage of education reform -- implementation -- moves forward successfully and on schedule.

The Partnership

The Massachusetts "Keep the Promise" coalition consists of many of the groups who were instrumental in fighting for the passage of Education Reform in 1993. The Massachusetts Partnership includes the Associated Industries of Massachusetts, the Executive Office of Education, the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education, the Massachusetts Business Roundtable, the Massachusetts Federation of Teachers, the Massachusetts High Tech Council, the Massachusetts Municipal Association, the Massachusetts Teachers Association, and Mass Insight, in collaboration with Challenge to Leadership and the Department of Education.

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Over the next year, this partnership will engage state officials, business leaders, and the public statewide with the common goal of maintaining the momentum for school reform in Massachusetts.

Leadership Summit

The "Keep the Promise" campaign was officially launched at a Leadership Summit on October 12, 1995 at the Westin Hotel in Boston. The goal of the Summit was to bring together business leaders and educators from the Greater Boston area who have a vested interest in education reform in the Commonwealth. The leaders gathered at the Summit heard several prominent national and state speakers discuss the progress of education reform to date.

The Leadership Summit served to highlight key issues which must be addressed if education reform is to succeed. As a result of the discussions there, a set of significant educational indicators has been compiled, by which progress can be measured. These indicators will be included as part of the "Keep the Promise" coalition's "Blueprint for Action". Parents, educators, and businesses will be able to look at these indicators to gauge the success of education reform in their own communities.

Regional Forums

Our next step in the "Keep the Promise" campaign is to travel throughout the state during regional Town Hall meetings sponsored by the Massachusetts Education Excellence Partnership and by local chambers of commerce and school councils. Our aim is to hold interactive dialogues with local education and business leaders focused on the intent of education reform and its impact in local communities.

These local dialogues are an integral component of the "Keep the Promise" campaign in that they will keep the public engaged and involved in the effort to push for school improvement both locally and statewide. Only with the support of the public and the business community from every corner of the state will students in Massachusetts achieve world-class results in education.